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ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1957



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# Atherton Urban District Council

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## Public Health Committee

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**Chairman:**

**Councillor P. JONES.**

**Vice-Chairman:**

**Councillor J. J. QUINN.**

**Councillors**

W. BRETT  
E. DONOGHUE  
W. J. GEORGE  
O. HATTON  
J. N. HEWITT

A. HOLLIDAY  
P. HUGHES  
S. LOVELESS  
G. W. NALLY  
A. D. NUTTER

G. H. PARKER  
H. PARTINGTON  
R. SHAW  
J. STIRZAKER  
C. URMSTON  
J. WESTWELL

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## Public Health Officers

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**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :**  
**E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

**SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :**

**FRANK MARKLAND, M.A., P.H.I.,**

**Cert. R.S.II. for Meat Inspection.**

(Retired on 30th September, 1957).

**THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A. (Dip.)**

**Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.**

(Appointed 1st October, 1957).

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :**

(Vacancy).

**CLERICAL ASSISTANT :**

**Mrs. A. HOPE.**

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Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Atherton.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ended 31st December, 1957, together with certain relevant statistical information.

The population of the district, following the Census of 1951, was 20,596, and the Registrar General's mid 1957 estimate was 19,840.

During the year there were 289 live births, as compared with 306 the previous year, and 7 still births. The Live Birth Rate has decreased from 1956, being 14.6 per thousand this year, and the Still Birth Rate rose slightly from 22 to 24 per thousand total births. For some reason, at present not clearly obvious, the infant mortality rate further increased to a rate of 42 per thousand live births. Of the 12 infant deaths, seven occurred within the first month of life. The measures to be taken to avoid the loss of life either as still births or neonatal deaths, must entail the adequate care of the expectant mother. An active investigation on a national scale is at present seeking possible factors. Provision exists in the town for the most complete antenatal care of all mothers, and the majority of mothers do in fact take advantage of this.

The Lancashire County Council, through its Divisional Health Administration Scheme, 1947, has continued to provide the personal health services in the district. Essential details of the services provided will be found in Section B of the body of this Report.

As previously, the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close review during the year, special attention being paid to food, water supplies, housing, smoke abatement and refuse disposal.

At the end of September, Mr. Frank Markland retired from the service of the Council. Although his sterling qualities were not always obviously appreciated by the Council, I am pleased to count him as one of my most trusted and loyal colleagues, whose technical judgement I sought and valued. Mr. Markland's work in the town is something of which he can well be proud, and as an officer who worked with him for many years I know too well the meticulous care he took over the many projects with which he was associated. It is my hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

Finally, my thanks are due to my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support through the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.



SECTION A.

*Statistics*



## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS.

#### General Statistics.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population:—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1957 Estimate—19,840.

Number of inhabited houses—6,568.

Rateable Value—£157,346.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£600.

#### Vital Statistics.

Live Births.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	....	....	....	149	133	282
Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	3	7
Total				153	136	289

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) ..... 14.6

Still Births:—				Males.	Females.	Total.
				3	4	7

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) ..... 24

Deaths—All Causes:—				Males.	Females.	Total.
				154	160	314

Crude Death Rate ((per 1,000 population)..... 15.8

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) ..... 17.4

Maternal Deaths ..... Nil

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) ..... Nil

Infant Deaths, ..... 12

Infantile Death Rate ..... 42

Neo-Natal Deaths ..... 7

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate ..... 24

Adjusted

TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS.

	* Live Births		Stillbirths		* Deaths (all causes)		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1957 .....	289	14.6	7	24	314	17.4	nil	nil	12	42	7	24
Year 1956.....	305	15.2	7	22	256	14.3	nil	nil	7	23	4	13
Year 1955.....	253	12.6	11	42	262	14.0	nil	nil	3	12	3	12
Year 1954.....	277	13.7	4	14	239	12.6	nil	nil	6	22	4	14
Year 1953.....	318	15.1	2	6	437	22.9	nil	nil	14	44	9	28
Year 1952 .....	323	15.2	11	33	252	13.1	nil	nil	5	15	2	6
Ave. 5 years— 1951-55 .....	297	13.9	—	26.2	—	15.2	—	—	—	20.2	—	12.8

\* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 12.6 per 1,000.  
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.10) = 14.3 per 1,000.

**TABLE II.**  
**CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1957.**

Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	...	1
Tuberculosis, other .....	1	1
Syphilitic Disease .....	1	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	...
Measles .....	...	...
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	3	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	...	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ....	15	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .....	...	...
Diabetes .....	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	15	28
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	24	21
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	2	3
Other Heart Disease .....	21	32
Other Circulatory Disease .....	3	5
Influenza .....	2	7
Pneumonia .....	10	7
Bronchitis .....	9	8
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	8	...
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	1	...
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	3	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	...	...
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	...
Congenital Malformations .....	2	...
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases .....	16	19
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	2	...
All other Accidents .....	5	3
Suicide .....	4	...
Homicide and operations of war .....	...	...
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>160</b>

**TABLE III.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS.**

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1957.

(Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1957 — 44,907,000

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
<b>Births:</b>		
Live births .....	722,952	16.1
Stillbirths .....	16,554	0.37
		22.4(a)
<b>Deaths:</b>		
All causes .....	514,946	11.5
Tuberculosis (all forms) .....	4,784	0.11
Respiratory .....	4,250	0.09
Non-respiratory .....	534	0.01
Cancer (all forms) .....	94,007	2.09
Lung and bronchus.....	19,118	0.43
Other cancer .....	74,889	1.67
Maternal mortality (total) .....	349	0.47(a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	288	0.39(a)
Due to abortion .....	61	0.08(a)
Infant Mortality .....	16,641	23.0(b)
Neo-natal mortality .....	11,904	16.5(b)
<b>Notifications (corrected):</b>		
Typhoid fever .....	123	0.00
Paratyphoid fever .....	310	0.02
Scarlet fever .....	29,544	0.66
Whooping Cough .....	85,004	1.89
Diphtheria .....	40	0.00
Erysipelas .....	3,596	14.11
Acute pneumonia .....	32,697	0.73
Acute poliomyelitis:—		
Paralytic .....	3,175	0.07
Non-paralytic .....	1,666	0.04
Acute encephalitis:—		
Infective .....	170	0.00
Post-infectious .....	155	0.00
Dysentery .....	28,898	0.64
Food poisoning .....	9,146	0.20
Puerperal pyrexia .....	11,831	0.26
Tuberculosis:—		
Respiratory .....	29,310	0.65
Meninges & C.N.S. ....	326	0.01
Other .....	3,481	0.08

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 live births.

## SECTION B.

*General Provision of Health Services  
for the Area*





## SECTION B.

### Ambulance.

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 939.

### Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89, Railway Road, Leigh.

### Clinics.

1. ANTE-NATAL.  
Alder House Clinic.  
Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon
2. ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT.  
Alder House Clinic.  
Each Monday and Thursday a.m.
3. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS  
IMMUNISATION.  
(i) Alder House Clinic.  
By arrangement, Monday afternoon of the 2nd and 4th week.  
(ii) General Practitioner Service
4. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.  
Alder House Clinic.  
Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.
5. OPHTHALMIC.  
Alder House Clinic.  
Each Tuesday a.m.
6. ORTHOPAEDIC.  
Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley.  
2nd Wednesday afternoon each month
7. POST-NATAL.  
Alder House Clinic.  
Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon
8. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.  
Alder House Clinic.  
Each Monday and Thursday a.m.
9. SPEECH THERAPY.  
Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

## 10. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC.

Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

## 11. VENEREAL DISEASES.

- (i) Civic Centre, Bolton.  
Males and Females—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.
- (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.  
Males—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
Females—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

### Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

### Health Visiting Service.

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

### Home Help Service.

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

### Home Nursing Service.

Two full-time District Nurses employed in the district.

### Hospitals.

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

### Maternity Homes.

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

**Midwifery Service.**

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lancs. C.C.

**Nursing Homes.**

None in the district.

**Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.**

Provision for their care is made by the Lancs. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

**Welfare Services.**

Under arrangements made by the Lancs. C.C.

Residential accommodation at Hourigan House, Leigh, and Atherleigh Grange, Leigh.

**X-ray Facilities.**

At Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmarys. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.



## SECTION C.

*Prevalence of and Control over  
Infectious and other Diseases*



## SECTION C.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### **Diphtheria.**

No case was notified, but the need to protect the community by immunisation remains.

#### **Dysentery.**

Fifteen cases were notified, none of which were admitted to hospital.

#### **Erysipelas.**

Five cases were reported during the year.

#### **Food Poisoning.**

Food poisoning is notifiable under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Four cases were notified and a further nine cases ascertained as a result of food poisoning enquiries. The *Salmonella* Iruma organism was isolated and the outbreak did not spread beyond one family and the shop food handlers.

#### **Malaria.**

No case was notified during the year .

#### **Measles.**

The number of cases of Measles shows a further decrease to 164.

#### **Meningococcal Infection.**

No case was notified.

#### **Paratyphoid Fever.**

No case was notified.

#### **Pneumonia.**

42 primary cases were reported. There were 10 male and seven female deaths. The last quarter of the year was the most severe, accounting for 22 of the total notified cases.

#### **Poliomyelitis.**

No cases were reported.

#### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

One case was notified and admitted to hospital.

**Scarlet Fever.**

Forty-six cases were reported.

**Smallpox (Variola).**

No cases occurred in the district during the year under review.

Vaccination and re-vaccination remain our most potent defensive weapons against the disease.

**Tuberculosis.**

10 new cases of pulmonary infection and two of non-pulmonary infection were notified. Last year there were six and one respectively.

One pulmonary and two non-pulmonary deaths were recorded in the year.

Although deaths from tuberculosis are being steadily reduced, its incidence within the community shows little evidence of improvement. The age at risk, however, seems to be shifting from the adolescent to the more aged group.

**Typhoid Fever.**

No case was notified.

**Whooping Cough.**

Sixty-three cases were notified for the year.

Immunisation, which is now available, holds out the only immediate hope of reducing both the incidence and the morbidity.



TABLE IV.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1957.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Years.														
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over			
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	15	1	4	1	5	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German Measles	164	11	28	23	22	29	49	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	42	...	2	6	...	11	...	23	...	...	17	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	46	3	4	5	11	20	1	1	1	...	...	6
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	63	8	12	11	5	11	14	2	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria (contracted abroad)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	4	...	...	...	7
Females	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
TOTALS	...	353	19	44	38	38	60	98	17	3	31	3	8	4	20	19

TABLE V.  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1957.

DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS.

DISEASE.	Hag Fold Ward	North Ward	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Sex		Total	Removed to Hospitals
							M.	F.		
Diphtheria ....	.	.	..	..	..	..	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ....	6	2	2	1	2	2	11	4	15	...
Enteric Fever ....	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ....	1	2	1	1	.	...	2	3	5	1
Food Poisoning ....	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	4	4	4
Measles (except German Measles) ....	69	22	22	24	20	7	73	91	164	4
Meningococcal Infection	...	..	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ....	15	9	7	4	2	5	30	12	42	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Scarlet Fever ....	29	6	2	3	2	4	24	22	46	6
Smallpox ....	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ....	26	6	8	7	9	7	31	32	63	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Malaria (cont. abroad).....	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—										
Males.....	4	...	...	3	...	...	7	...	7	7
Females.....	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	3	3
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis										
Males.....	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	2
Females.....	...	...	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ....	152	50	43	45	35	26	180	172	352	24

TABLE VI. Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate		Infantile Mortality Rate	Diphtheria		Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years)	Measles		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
		Actual	Adjusted		Cases	Deaths		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1900	36.7	16.49	...	161.6	3	3	14	...	5	...	...	...	9	29	...	13	2
1905	30.9	13.7	...	141.8	40	3	34	...	6	...	...	...	24	55	1	17	5
1910	26.47	14.67	...	154.1	20	2	15	...	9	...	...	...	36	88	...	19	3
1915	25.44	13.11	...	103.09	31	3	13	...	2	...	13	44	18	100	...	7	2
1920	24.1	12.1	...	109	24	...	9	...	2	...	8	25	15	49	...	2	2
1925	15.4	10.9	...	63	29	3	3	...	1	...	5	28	8	52	...	1	1
1930	15.3	10.6	...	61	8	...	...	...	5	...	4	18	6	42	...	1	...
1935	13.3	12.6	14.3	73	10	3	...	...	3	...	1	15	9	78	...	...	...
1937	14.0	11.2	12.7	51	108	3	1	...	1	...	4	8	6	...	...	...	...
1938	13.6	10.2	11.6	42	127	7	...	...	5	...	2	8	8	...	...	...	...
1940	15.5	12.0	...	35	9	...	3	...	...	...	1	7	8	...	...	...	...
1942	16.5	10.3	...	74	12	5	1	...	...	...	3	10	9	...	...	...	...
1943	18.2	12.8	...	74	12	2	2	...	...	...	3	11	5	...	...	...	...
1944	16.29	11.86	...	60	8	...	1	...	...	...	2	9	5	...	...	...	...
1945	17.9	11.8	...	28	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	4	...	...	...	...
1946	17.6	10.9	...	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	2	...	...	...	...
1947	19.7	13.3	...	50	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	12	2	...	...	...	...
1948	15.2	10.0	...	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	5	...	...	...	...
1949	14.7	12.8	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	5	...	...	...	...
1950	14.0	11.5	13.7	24	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	15	10	...	...	...	...
1951	12.9	13.4	12.3	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	7	7	...	...	...	...
1952	15.8	12.4	14.2	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	4	...	...	...	...
1953	15.1	21.6	13.1	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1954	13.7	11.8	22.9	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	24	4	...	...	...	...
1955	12.6	13.0	12.6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	...
1956	15.2	12.8	14.0	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	2	...	...	...	...
			14.3		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	8	...	...	...	...
1957	14.6	15.8	17.4	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	10	1	...	...	...	...



SECTION D.

*Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Area*



## SECTION D.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply.

The town's water is derived in bulk from the Manchester and Bolton main supplies. Each house is connected to the mains and has its own internal supply of water of good quality, which is maintained at constant pressure.

The water is bacteriologically examined and analysed at Manchester and Bolton at regular intervals; 29 local samples being so examined during the year under review.

There is a slight tendency to plumbo solvent action, for which it is treated by the supplying authorities before delivery to our mains. The tin lining of all lead service piping is insisted upon.

#### Streams.

Streams within the district are examined periodically to prevent pollution. The results of chemical analysis proved satisfactory, there being no injurious or harmful matter present. There are no dye or artificial silk works in Atherton.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the type known as the Combined System. Extensions to include housing estates were made during the year. Sewage is dealt with by the Leigh Sewerage Board.

#### Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1956 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz.:—

Number of Privy Middens .....	Nil
Number of Closets attached to these Middens	Nil
Number of Pail Closets .....	4
Number of Trough Closets .....	7 (at schools)
Number of Waste Water Closets .....	628
Number of Fresh Water Closets .....	7166
Number of Dry Ashpits .....	Nil
Number of movable Ashbins.....	6792
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System .....	6564

Conversions during 1956:—

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets .....	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets .....	45
Number of Trough Closets to Fresh Water Closets.....	Nil

The Council's scheme for the conversion of waste water closets was suspended by the Ministry of Health on the outbreak of war in 1939. An application for permission to resume the conversion of defective and broken waste water closets was allowed during 1952, the Council now making a contribution of £9 towards the cost of each conversion.

### **Disinfestation.**

D.D.T. Solution (25 per cent. water miscible) has been used for disinfesting houses. The apparatus used is the Mysto Knapsack sprayer.

One Council and two privately-owned houses were so treated during the year.

### **Scavenging.**

A weekly collection of refuse is operative in the district, utilising four motor vehicles. Approximately 10,000 tons of refuse were collected and removed.

House refuse is finally disposed of at Millers Lane Tip, where the Ministry of Health's regulations in respect of control are practised.

Salvage of waste paper and metals, etc., was again maintained throughout the year, and the income from this source realised the sum of approximately £1,800.

Street sweeping is the responsibility of the Surveyor and is carried out by means of manual labour.

### **Factories and Workplaces.**

These premises are inspected periodically, and the general condition is fairly satisfactory. Particulars are contained in Table VIII.

### **Rats and Mice Destruction.**

The destruction of rats and mice was continued throughout the year at premises within the district.

As a Public Health measure, no charge is made for rat destruction at private houses.

The Council is willing to give every assistance in the work of eradication of rats and mice. Tenants can assist by giving prompt notification of any suspected infestation.

Warfarin is now used extensively in the treatment of business and other premises and the result is very satisfactory.

The sewers in the district were treated twice during the year. The number of manholes so treated is recorded as 335. The results of the baiting was successful.

Sausage rusk formed the pre-bait, to which Zinc Phosphide was added for the poisoning in the first treatment, and bread mash, plus Arsenical Oxide, was used in the second treatment. Paranitrophenol as a mould inhibitor was also added for both treatments. The pattern of treatment was as laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



TABLE VII. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agricultural
	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3)	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District .....	17	68	429	7014	21
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ....	2	73	31	106	—
(b) Survey under the Act ....	17	257	62	336	13
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)...	—	388	136	524	3
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections ....	32	764	269	1065	24
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats } Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
} Minor .....	2	141	47	190	2
(b) Mice } Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
} Minor .....	2	38	9	49	—
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A. ....	4	179	56	239	2
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments ....	9	191	68	268	3
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment ....	—	—	—	Nil	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing) was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ....	—	—	—	Nil	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ....					
IX. Legal Proceedings ....				Nil	
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out ....				Nil	

### **Swimming Baths.**

The public swimming baths, owned by the Council since 1902, provides swimming facilities for schools of Atherton, Westhoughton and Horwich. There is a modern filtration and chlorination plant and all the water used is drawn from the town mains supply.

The Bath Superintendant's report shows that approximately 70,000 bathers use the bath throughout the year.

Modernisation of the Ladies' Slipper Baths and provision of a small Cafe have recently been completed.

Samples of water taken from the plunge bath after a period of considerable usage have, on examination by the Public Health Laboratory, proved to be quite satisfactory.

### **Schools.**

The general structure of the schools in the town is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

### **Offensive Trades.**

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

### **Houses Let in Lodgings.**

One house only is registered for this purpose, and generally it is kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

### **Rag Flock Acts.**

There is only one workshop in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold. The sample submitted for examination was satisfactory.

TABLE VIII.

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....	10	16	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	88	91	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) .....	5	8	1	—
Total ....	103	121	14	Nil

## Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found.	Abated.	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness .....	8	8	2
Want of Ventilation .....	1	1	—
Unreasonable temperature .....	1	1	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ....	1	1	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient (not separate for sexes) .....	1	1	—
Unsuitable or defective .....	5	5	1
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—
Total ....	17	17	3



SECTION E.

*Inspection and Supervision  
of Food*



## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### Places under Inspection.

The number of food premises, by type of business, at the end of 1957, were as follows:—

Grocers .....	88
Bakers .....	21
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream) etc. ....	37
Fried Fish Shops .....	19
Meat Shops (Butchers, purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.) .....	25
Greengrocers .....	10
Fishmongers .....	8
Canteens, Snack Bars & Licensed Premises....	49
Others .....	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, include:—

	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspec- tions during 1957.
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit & Vegetables .....	18	21
„ Meat & Meat Products .....	2	5
Bakehouses .....	21	93
Fried Fish Shops .....	19	22
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises .....	5	14
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises .....	17	49
Ice Cream Shops .....	68	155

#### Food Inspection.

The premises used for the preparation, storage and/or sale of food-stuffs are regularly inspected and are generally found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The department has obtained the willing co-operation of the majority of food traders, in compliance with matters arising under the Clean Food Bye-laws and the standards required under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice cream have been visited regularly and have been found to be well maintained. The “Codes of Practice” evolved by the Lancashire County Council and adopted by the Council have been issued to the registered premises for guidance, and in order to maintain uniformity throughout the County.

The results of the sampling of ice cream and details of the food condemned is shown under a separate heading later in the report.

## Slaughterhouses.

There are four licensed slaughter-houses in the district. The year 1957 has shown a marked improvement in the two larger premises. One has a new cooling room of quite sizeable proportions with white brick tiled walls from floor to ceiling, and the other has in a similar vein improved its conditions considerably. It is very gratifying indeed to report upon improvements on the old 'booth' type slaughter-house.

The details of animals killed and inspected are as follows:—

	Cattle. (excl. cows)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
No. Slaughtered .....	1158	1943	23	8556	511
No. Inspected .....	1158	1943	23	8556	511

### All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	1	5	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	213	439	2	707	133
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	18.4	22.0	8.7	8.3	26.0

### Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned	—	2	—	—	—
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	87	143	1	—	16
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.5	7.3	4.4	—	3.1

### Cysticercosis.

Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----



## Unsound Food.

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption, other than that stated in previous paragraphs, was as follows:—

34 tins Corned Mutton .....	213 lbs.
5 tins Corned Beef .....	30 lbs.
9 tins Cooked Ham .....	108 lbs.
44 tins Tongue .....	259 lbs.
1 tin Pork Luncheon .....	4 lbs.
8 tins Stewed Steak .....	8 lbs.
17 tins Jellied Veal .....	102 lbs.
6 tins Evaporated Milk .....	6 lbs.
4 tins Vegetables .....	4 lbs.
28 tins Tomatoes .....	28 lbs.
Bacon .....	84 lbs.
1 tin Chicken .....	4 lbs.
9 tins Salmon .....	9 lbs.
24 tins Peaches .....	31 lbs.
20 tins Luncheon Meat .....	15 lbs.
13 tins Creamed Rice .....	13 lbs.
15 tins Pears .....	16 lbs.
4 tins Mushroom Soup .....	4 lbs.
2 tins Pineapple .....	2 lbs.
2 tins Marmalade .....	4 lbs.
1 tin Coffee .....	1½ lbs.
6 tins Oranges .....	6 lbs.
6 tins Cherries .....	3 lbs.

## Milk Supply.

Atherton being a designated area, the sale of raw milk other than tuberculin tested, is not permitted. Milk is delivered in sealed bottle containers and is pasteurised or otherwise heat treated.

There is no heat treatment plant in Atherton and the milk produced in the area is passed to the Milk Marketing Board. Producer-retailers then obtain a supply of designated milk. Permitting of the sale of designated milk only is a further step in the prevention of the spread of bovine tuberculosis.

There are 13 farms in the district, with an approximate total of 200 cows. 58 milk shops are registered for the sale of bottled milk only. In addition, 3 Dealers' Licences for distribution of "Tuberculin Tested" and 5 Licences for "Pasteurised" Milk were issued by the Council. Action taken by the Local Authority in relation to:—

### (a) Raw Milk:

#### (i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—

No. of samples 19. No. positive 2. No. negative 16. No result 1.

#### (ii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 19. No. satisfactory 14. No. unsatisfactory 5.

#### (iii) Sediment tests—

No. of samples nil. No. satisfactory nil. No. unsatisfactory nil.

### (b) "Heat treated" milk :

#### (i) Phosphatase test—

No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.

#### (ii) Turbidity test—

No. of samples 3. No. satisfactory 3. No. unsatisfactory nil.

#### (iii) Tuberculosis—

No. of samples nil. No. positive nil. No. negative nil.

All the farms are connected to the town's water supply.

19 samples of raw milk were submitted for the presence of tubercle bacilli, of which 16 were found to be negative and 2 positive, and these latter were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

No. of notifications of tuberculosis milk forwarded to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—2.

Results of Ministry investigations during the year arising from notifications by the local authority:—

No. of veterinary inspections—2.

No. of cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938—2.

No. of animals seized—2.

No. of cases reported negative, where animals have been sold prior to investigation—nil.

No. of cases reported negative, No. animals seized—nil.

### **Bakehouses.**

21 Bakehouses are registered in the district, and are kept in quite a satisfactory condition.

67 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. No loose ice cream is sold other than from two temperance bars, and by one manufacturer retailing loose ice cream from his fleet of vans.

Two 'hot mix' and one 'cold mix' are manufactured in the town. Premises are visited regularly and the vans retailing ice cream are kept in good, sound, hygienic condition.

14 samples were submitted throughout the summer for bacteriological examination. Of these, 12 attained grade I, one grade II and one grade III.

Chemical analysis is carried out by the Lancashire C.C. inspectorial staff, who would take action as necessary upon any sample not being up to the prescribed standard.

### **Food Premises**

Advice regarding hygiene and food handling principles is given to shopkeepers and food handlers while inspectors are carrying out routine duties. Many on-the-spot minor discrepancies are thereby rectified and emphasis is laid on washing facilities and protection of food from contamination.

The Clean Food Bye-laws are in operation and, coupled with the requirements of the Lancashire C.C. (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, the campaign for clean food keeps a fairly good standard.

### **Food Adulteration.**

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for this work, and this Council the co-opting body. The County Medical Officer of Health has kindly supplied me with the following information:—

# FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

A total of 102 samples was obtained, consisting of 67 samples of milk (two of which were of Channel Islands milk) and 35 others comprising:—

2 Borax.	1 Aspirin tablets.
2 Almond Oil.	1 Glycerin.
1 Pork pie.	1 Honey.
1 Pork sausage.	1 Drinking chocolate.
1 Lard.	1 Fruit curd.
1 Olive oil.	3 Flour.
1 Zinc Ointment.	1 Custard powder.
1 Cod liver oil.	1 Cooking fat.
2 Penicillin tablets.	1 Cooked meat sausage.
1 Margarine.	1 Nutmeg compound.
3 Bread.	1 Christmas pudding.
1 Semolina.	2 Table jelly.
1 Fruit—canned.	2 Jam.

The samples were submitted for analysis to the County Analyst and, with the exception of those detailed below, were reported to be genuine:—

Sample No.	Type.	Result of Analysis.	Action Taken.
C.7245	Milk	Fat 2.95%; deficient 1.6% fat	Vendor notified.
C.7363	Milk	Fat 2.8%; deficient 6.6% fat	Vendor notified.
E.3723	Bread and Marmalade (one piece)	Contained one dead corn or flour beetle (Gnathocerus Cornutus)	Obtained at a Day Nursery. Same vendor.
E.3726	Two slices of white bread	Contained thorax and abdomen of beetle resembling Gnathocerus Cornutus	Bakers cautioned and bakery inspected.
E.3726	Bread	Consisted of dough contaminated with used lubricating oil or grease	Bakers cautioned.
C.8261	Christmas Pudding	List of ingredients in wrong order on label	Packers communicated with.

## SECTION F.

### *Housing*



## SECTION F.

### HOUSING.

	Houses.	Flats.
Number of New Houses erected during the year:—		
(i) By the Local Authority .....	66	40
(ii) By other Local Authorities .....	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	8	—

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	856
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose .....	1233
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :	
(a) Number found during year .....	8
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year .....	152
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.....	91

#### 2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses .....	68
(b) Other houses .....	1
(2) Number of persons displaced .....	249
(3) Min. of Works Prefabricated Bungalows .....	15

#### 3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of houses.	No. of persons displaced.
Houses demolished or closed during year:—		
(a) Housing Act, 1936:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section II) .....	3	7
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force .....	5	—
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12) ....	—	—



(b) Housing Act, 1949:—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) .....	—	—
(ii) Houses modernised and taken over by the L.A. under Section 15 .....	—	2

(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) .....	2	6
---	---	---

(2) Repairs during the year:—

	*No. of houses.	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .....		321
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—		
(i) By owners .....	14	
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—	
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) : Houses made fit:—		
(i) By owners .....	3	
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	1	
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) .....		Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7....	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above .....	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) .....	Nil

\* A defective house remedied more than once during the year should be included once only.



## Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	51	51
(b) Approved by local authority .....	33	33
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry .....	—	—
(d) Approved by Ministry .....	—	—
(e) Work completed .....	24	24

### General Inspections.

Houses (including re-visits) .....	1233
Newly infected houses .....	71
Schools .....	14
Factories and Workplaces .....	115
Bakehouses .....	93
Food-preparing places .....	148
Dairies, Miscellaneous, etc. ....	174
Shops .....	219
Slaughter-houses .....	649
	<hr/>
	2716

And in connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz.:—

	Found.	Remedied.
House roofs in need of repair .....	51	43
Defective W.C.'s .....	37	36
Choked or defective drains .....	11	11
Defective plaster of walls, etc. ....	66	54
Insanitary condition of yards .....	5	5
House walls damp .....	53	48
Defective eaves gutters .....	28	27
Defective window frames, sash-cords, etc....	32	27
Animals kept as to be a nuisance .....	8	8
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, burst pipes, etc.)	36	31
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	327	290

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz.:—

Informal	....	....	....	....	321
Statutory	....	....	....	....	17

### Rent Act, 1957.

This new Act came into force during the year.

(1) Applications for Certificate of disrepair (from September to December, 1957) .....	80
(2) Council's intention notices served .....	77
(3) Certificates of disrepair issued .....	66
(4) Undertakings received .....	14

It was felt that this new Act would have a decided impact on the repair of the older tenanted property, but the legislation has proved rather too much for the uninitiated tenant, and many are paying the increased rent without the benefit of the repairs.

### **Conditions and observations.**

As the town is mainly industrial in character, there is a large proportion of property which has been built in terraces, the average age being of 80 to 90 years.

Generally, these houses are of a fairly well maintained standard of upkeep, but there are isolated properties which require action under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1957.

Mining subsidence has affected numerous properties in the area during the past year.

The houses erected since 1920, mostly of the semi-detached type, are in the main owner-occupied and present no serious problem.

The making up of the roads and footpaths on various estates under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, has added greatly to the amenities of these estates.

There are no back-to-back houses in the district.

### **General.**

The occupation of 66 new houses and 40 flats on the Council's housing estate during the year afforded some measure of relief to that number of families, but there remains quite a formidable list of applicants requiring re-housing.

A survey of the list would indicate the need for provision of two-bedroomed houses, and bungalows for aged persons.

The coming into operation of the 1957 Rent Act caused a spate of applications for certificates of disrepair, but the varied complicated form-filling procedure seems to be weighing the Act down. Certainly no greater volume of repairs has resulted from it.

Many tenants have acquired their tenanted property, and on becoming the owners they have commenced improvements, mainly with the assistance of Improvement Grants.

The manner in which many tenants have helped themselves by the installation of new tiled fireplaces, electric light and other house comfort features, is very apparent, even in properties which have had to be demolished.

The clearance of sub-standard property proceeded quite well throughout the year, resulting in a total of 92 dwellings being cleared and/or closed. Other properties are awaiting decision by the Minister, and upon confirmation will be demolished during 1958.

One clearance area site has been re-developed and added charm and grace to that locality.

The continuance of such schemes on other cleared sites would attract to the amenities of the centre of the town and not leave vacant land open to the unauthorised tipping of refuse.

Finally, one house let-in-lodgings, purchased by the local authority, has been converted into two dwellings and will provide useful accommodation for some considerable time.

SECTION G.

*Atmospheric Pollution  
and Smoke Abatement*



## Atmospheric Pollution.

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus, at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

### Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method.

	Rainfall in ins.	pH	Tons per square mile			SO <sub>2</sub> /mg. day 1002cm
			Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	
<b>Alder House.</b>						
January ....	2.36	4.1	8.26	5.86	14.13	2.67
February ....	2.17	3.9	11.16	5.73	16.91	2.92
March ....	2.64	4.1	12.25	3.76	16.01	2.55
April ....	0.51	5.1	9.03	2.50	1.53	1.79
May ....	1.34	4.9	11.40	2.74	14.14	1.67
June ....	2.01	4.7	13.83	5.20	19.03	1.33
July ....	5.04	4.3	10.47	7.15	17.62	1.43
August ....	5.04	4.5	9.41	7.15	16.56	1.49
September ....	6.66	4.1	9.10	9.07	18.17	1.85
October .....	3.55	4.1	10.16	5.95	16.11	2.42
November ....	1.50	3.9	7.05	3.56	10.61	2.97
December ....	2.60	4.1	9.10	5.03	14.13	3.06
TOTALS ....	35.42	4.31	121.24	63.71	184.95	2.18
		Mean				Mean

### St. George's School.

January ....	2.60	4.1	12.38	8.08	20.46	2.67
February ....	2.56	3.9	11.56	6.43	17.99	3.37
March ....	3.70	3.9	16.54	6.74	23.28	3.52
April ....	0.69	5.1	8.56	2.92	11.48	2.06
May ....	1.34	4.5	10.73	3.95	14.68	1.75
June ....	2.17	4.5	12.72	5.50	18.22	1.22
July ....	4.41	4.1	9.35	5.99	15.34	1.27
August ....	5.59	4.3	10.04	11.56	21.60	1.48
September ....	6.38	4.1	10.94	9.08	20.02	1.84
October ....	4.53	3.7	12.56	7.91	20.47	2.44
November ....	1.69	3.7	8.39	4.95	13.34	3.05
December ....	4.45	3.9	14.07	8.95	23.02	3.52
TOTALS ....	40.01	4.15	137.84	82.06	219.90	2.35
		Mean				Mean

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

### **Atmospheric Pollution.**

The piping of gas on the grid system will mean the ultimate closing down of the Atherton Gas Works. These works have for many years been a source of pollution and noise, and their final closure will be a most welcome experience.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, provides, inter alia, prohibition of dark smoke, requirements of new furnaces, smoke control areas, and exchequer contributions for adaption of fireplaces in private dwellings.

For many years the Council has installed approved fireplaces in all newly erected Council property.

One new industrial plant installation received prior approval during the year.

A Bye-law is in operation controlling the emission of black smoke to a permitted maximum period of 2 minutes in any one half-hour.

Firms generally are willing to co-operate in efforts to combat smoke nuisance, but some of the boiler house plant needs serious revision.

SECTION H.

*National Assistance Act, 1948*  
*Section 47*





## **SECTION H.**

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the provisions of this section as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.



SECTION I.

*Shops Act*



## SECTION I.

### SHOPS ACT.

Shop inspections have been carried out throughout the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950.

A total of 288 inspections were carried out, and while generally the standard has been quite good, there were a few offenders who had to be called upon to make efforts to improve their conditions. These were usually properties of the older, less modern premises and are admittedly the harder to maintain. Progress, however, has been made in the form of "opening up" the rear rooms into one large room, and some of these works have quite a beneficial effect on staff and customers alike.

Public Houses in a like manner have made progress, and better conditions prevail in consequence. Improvement in toilet accommodation being considerable.

Coupled with the uncertain definition of "food for immediate consumption", the pre-packed foods have played a great part in improving hygienic standards.

In the campaign against rodent infestation in shops, remedial measures in the nature of the repair of defective drains and rat proofing of premises were taken, with satisfactory results.

During the winter months shops were ordered to ensure that the Council's adopted standard of temperatures were being adhered to. In certain cases additional heating appliances were installed.

Storage facilities, particularly where staff weigh up "stock", are kept under review. Improvements were obtained where necessary.

The trading from mobile shops and in established shops has received attention during the year. It is to be hoped that promised legislation will soon be forthcoming and elucidate parts of the present Act which are at present virtually unworkable.





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